

## **Project Eligibility Criteria**

- Project must meet one or more of Idaho's Forest Legacy Program goals
- Project must be within an Idaho Priority Landscape Area as identified in the Forest Action Plan (FAP)-Resource Strategy.
- Project must be sponsored by a federal or state agency or a land trust organization.
- Project must be privately owned (non federal, State, or local government).
- Project must be at least five (5) acres in size.
- Project must include a minimum 25% cash or in-kind, non-federal match. The FLP will fund up to 75% of total program costs (acquisition costs plus other allowable expenses).
- Project must be 75% forestland (defined as land with trees that has at least 10% canopy cover or that formerly had such tree cover and is not currently developed for non-forest use).
- Landowners agree to follow federal Forest Legacy Program requirements and implementation rules which include:
  - Accepting an appraisal that meets standard federal appraisal guidelines
  - Managing the property by means of a Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan (LFSP) approved through the Idaho Forest Stewardship Program
  - Agreeing that a funded project will not receive payment until federal funding has been secured
  - Allowing an annual inspection for conservation easement (CE) compliance
  - Granting a perpetual conservation easement to the State of Idaho, with the stated purposes of maintaining, enhancing, or conserving the forestland and conservation values of the property

## **Required Restrictions**

The following items are general summaries of provisions included in the conservation easements. Exact language within the easements may differ from that provided for below.

- Legal division, subdivision, or de facto subdivision of the Property through sales, leases, or otherwise, unless use of the property following the division or subdivision will be consistent with the purposes of the easement.
- Construction or placement of any new commercial or residential buildings, structures, or mobile homes, unless identified and planned for at the time of the CE purchase, with the exception of minor non-residential buildings or structures.
- Storage, dumping, or disposal of toxic or hazardous waste.

- Irreversibly changing, disturbing, or impairing significant natural ecological features and values.
- Introducing or releasing nonnative plant species. Introduction or release of nonnative wildlife species must be approved by Idaho Department of Fish and Game.
- Establishment or operation of any golf course, industrial dairy, commercial feedlot, wild game farming, commercial lodging or guest ranching facilities.
- Extraction of minerals, soil, sand, gravel or rock must be bonded, and produce and carry out a reclamation plan, whether for commercial or private use.
- Installation of new utilities, utility towers, or necessary related utility structures, unless such installations and uses of the property are consistent with the purposes of the easement.

### **Negotiable Restrictions**

- Exploration for or development and extraction of gas, oil, hydrocarbons, minerals and geothermal resources by any surface or subsurface mining.
- Construction of new roads or vehicle trails.
- Installation of new utilities, utility towers, or necessary related utility structures.
- Use for grazing or pasturing of livestock.
- Use and access by the public.
- Sales and exchanges of parcels, on a limited basis, for the purposes of boundary adjustments, eliminating in-holdings, consolidating ownership and/or improving the capacity of the Grantor to effectively manage the property.
- Construction or placement of any signs, billboards or other advertising materials.
- Use of snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, motorcycles, or other motorized vehicles off of roads or travel ways for property management or other purposes.
- Extraction of soil, sand, gravel or rock.
- Establishment of compatible commercial activities, including, but not limited to, outfitting or guiding.

### **Criteria that will Enhance Application Ranking**

- Readiness: a signed option agreement, Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan, draft Conservation Easement, title report, and mineral survey, among others, are all completed at time of application.

- A non-federal match of 50% or greater.
- Larger contiguous acreages. Parcels less than 100 acres will rank very low unless there are significantly unique environmental values to conserve
- Designated public access uses, except in cases where primary goal is conservation of threatened and endangered species
- Connection to other public or private protected lands (USFS, USFWS, IDFG, BLM, Land Trusts, conservation easements, etc)
- Contribution to recognized conservation strategies or initiatives
- Contribution to local economies
- Contribution to environmental values by conserving habitats and species
- Protection of cultural, scenic or other public resources
- Threat of by conversion to non-forest uses